

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07
AID-05 COME-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 FCC-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3854
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, ECON, HA
SUBJECT: ANCESTORS' DAY SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: JANUARY 2 ANCESTORS' DAY SPEECH EMERGED AS APPRECIABLY MORE REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENT THAN LAST YEAR. FOREIGN POLICY REFERENCES BRIEF, PRO FORMA. PRESIDENT WENT OF WAY TO OFFER COOPERATION TO FOREIGN FRIENDS AND DONORS, ESPECIALLY U.S. AT SAME TIME, HE WARNED OUTSIDERS NOT TO PRESS TO HARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS. INTERNAL POLICY SECTIONS STRESSED PRESIDENT'S CONCERN FOR MASSES AND DESIRE IMPROVE THEIR LOT FOLLOWING FIVE YEAR PLAN II GOALS. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ECONOMY FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SECTIONS, INCLUDING SUCH TARGETS AS NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CODE AND DOUBLING SUGAR PRODUCTION. PRESIDENT DECLARED INTENT TO INCREASE GOH CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND REPORTED OPENING REGIE DU TABAC DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT IN NATIONAL BANK (STEP TOWARD FISCALIZATION). ALTHOUGH ACCOMPLISHMENTS MAY BE LONG IN COMING, AND MUST IN PARTICULAR BE BUDGETED FOR, MORE SOPHISTICATED ARTICULATION OF NATIONAL GOALS AND
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BALANCED EXPOSITION CREATES FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTAL ENVIRONMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. OBSERVERS AGREE THIS YEAR'S MESSAGE APPRECIABLY MORE REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE THAN PREVIOUS EFFORTS IN RECENT YEARS. ALTHOUGH NOT AN ACTION DOCUMENT, IT EXPRATSES SENSIBLE AND BETTER THOUGHT OUT GOALS. MESSAGE AUTHORITARIAN IN VEIN,

CHARACTERIZED BY SENSE OF NOBLESSE OBLIGE TOWARDS THE MASSES
AND BY QUIET CONFIDENCE.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: FOREIGN POLICY SECTIONS OF SPEECH WERE
NON-DOCTRINAIRE AND LARGELY ROUTINE, NOTABLY GENEROUS WITH
PRAISE FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY THAT FROM U.S.
PRESIDENT PROMISED GOH WILL CONTINUE TO WELCOME AND FACILITATE
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, WHILE REJECTING RETURN TO XENOPHOBIA.
SPEECH MAKES PRO FORMA REFERENCE TO THIRD WORLD, APARTHEID,
AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES BUT SUGGESTS NO NEW POLICY DEMARCHES.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: FOR FIRST TIME, HOWEVER, AND SUBSEQUENT
TO GOVERNMENT'S RECENT UNUSUALLY HEAVY (AND EXTERNALLY INDUCED)
ACTIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, PRESIDENT FIRMLY CAUTIONED
AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION ON THIS SUBJECT: QUOTE...WHILE
APPRECIATING THE CONCERN OF ORGANIZATIONS AT PROTECTING HUMAN
RIGHTS AND PROMOTING THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND IN NATION
STATES, IT (GOH) DEEMS THAT SUCH A POLICY -- TO BE
POSITIVE -- MUST NOT INFRINGE ON RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY
AND EVEN LESS TO SERVE AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR POLITICAL
MANEUVERS. UNQUOTE. STATEMENT PROBABLY IN RESPONSE
TO RECENT TENDENTIOUS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENTS
ON HAITI.

5. INTERNAL POLICY: BULK OF SPEECH DEVOTED TO INTERNAL
POLICY AND PLANS, LARGELY RELATED TO FIVE-YEAR-PLAN II.

A. REGIONALIZATION - PROPOSED TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNES
AS CENTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT, WELCOMED U.S. AGRICULTURAL FEEDER
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ROAD PROJECT AS MEANS OF OPENING UP THE COUNTRY, EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR INTERCOASTAL SHIPPING AND PROMISED TO IMPROVE
PORTS AND AIRFIELDS OUTSIDE PORT AU PRINCE. COMMUNES HAVE
LONG BEEN STARVED OF FUNDS AND SUBSTANTIAL INFUSIONS OF
CAPITAL WILL BE REQUIRED TO OFFSET RURAL/URBAN MIGRATION
TRENDS.

B. URBAN POOR - RECOGNIZING CONGESTION IN PORT AU PRINCE,
PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED PLAN TO BUILD 13,000 PRIMARILY LOW COST
HOUSING UNITS BETWEEN 1977 -1981. THIS IS FIRST EXPLICIT
COMMITMENT TO DEAL WITH A SEVERE AND GROWING PROBLEM, AND
IT IS ONLY A START.

C. EDUCATION - PROPOSED TO BUILD MORE SCHOOLS AND TO
REDUCE ILLITERACY BY 25 PERCENT BY 1981, I.E. TO 55 - 60
PERCENT RANGE. TARGET IS FIRST-TIME COMMITMENT TO
TACKLING ONE OF HAITI'S MAJOR PROBLEMS, AND EVEN WITH
SIGNIFICANT WORLD BANK INTEREST, THIS GOAL IS
AMBITIOUS.

D. HEALTH - EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BRING HEALTH BENEFITS TO ALL HAITIANS, NOT JUST PRIVILEGED. FAMILY PLANNING, HOWEVER, RECEIVED ONLY GLANCING REFERENCE.

E. JUSTICE - REFERRED CONSISTENTLY TO PROBLEMS OF ENSURING JUSTICE AND TO STEPS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN TO PROTECT WORKERS AND PEASANTS FROM ARBITRARY ACTIONS OF EMPLOYERS, LANDLORDS, ETC. GOVERNMENT HAS IN FACT BEEN ACTIVE IN THIS FIELD BUT JUSTICE MINISTRY'S LIMITED BUDGET (ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN 3 PERCENT OF TOTAL FOR ALL MINISTRIES) WILL PRECLUDE ANY RADICAL LEGAL REFORMS. GOH PRESUMABLY WISHES TO HIGHLIGHT ITS CONCERN AS OFFSET TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

F. ECONOMY - ENUNCIATED SEVERAL SPECIFIC STEPS GOVERNMENT PLANS IN THIS FIELD.

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(1) INDUSTRY - IT CRITICIZED LIGHT INDUSTRY AS POOR EMPLOYER, AND PROMISED TO PROMOTE NEW INDUSTRY RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS THROUGH NEW INVESTMENT CODE, CREDIT, TRAINING AND NEW BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THESE ARE ALL SOUND MEASURES; AGAIN, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY' BUDGET, ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN 2 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WILL HAVE TO BE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IF THESE GOALS ARE TO BE REALIZED.

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(2) AGRICULTURE - ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF INCREASING PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CROPS THROUGH IRRIGATION, TRAINING, ETC. INCLUDING DOUBLING SUGAR PRODUCTION TO 150,000 TONS WITH HELP OF TWO NEW CENTRALS (AGRO-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATON AND HAYTIAN-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION).

(3) MANAGEMENT - STTED IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING GOH CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT, REDUCING DEGREE OF DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT WITH NATIONAL BANK TO BE FED BY REGIE DU TABAC AND FROM WHICH WOULD BE DRAWN COUNTERPART FUNDS. PRESENT STATUS OF ACCOUNT UNKNOWN, BUT ANNOUNCED MOVE DIRECTLY RESPONSIVE TO INTERNATIONAL CREDITOR PRESSURES FOR FISCALIZATION OF SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AND CONSISTENT WITH PLEDGE PRESIDENT MADE AT TIME OF HENRI SICLAIT'S DISMISSAL LAST SEPTEMBER AS REGIE DU TABAC DIRECTOR (76 PORT AU PRINCE 2441, 2508).

G. MEDIA - DECLARED INTENT TO ENLIST POPULACE IN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION THROUGH USE OF GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION, AND TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPAND ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE NATION. RADIO STATION -- LIKE EARTH SATELLITE RECEIVER TO BE LINKED WITH NEW GOH TV CHANNEL -- WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE USED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES BUT CAN SERVE USEFUL EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AS WELL, AND REFLECTS GOH EFFORT TO HARNESS TECHNOLOGY TO BASIC EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF COUNTRY.

6. COMMENT: SPEECH REFLECTS INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED APPRECIATION OF DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND, BY ASSOCIATION, GREATER PRESIDENTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT. AT SAME TIME, DESPITE THE ALARUMS OF LAST APRIL ABOUT COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES AND THE OBVIOUS SENSITIVITY TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS, SPEECH EMERGES AS REMARKABLY CONFIDENT AND COHERENT DOCUMENT ADDRESSED AT SPECIFIC NATIONAL CONCERNS. PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CLEARLY BETTER SO LONG AS PRESIDENT CAN RETAIN THAT SENSE OF BALANCE. VALIDITY OF SUCH PROJECTIONS, HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND ON TOUGH GOH BUDGETING DECISIONS FOR THEIR REALIZATION.
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Message Attributes

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